

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-02

DOT-00 /064 W

----- 081269

R 080925Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9144

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OUAGADOUGOU 0333

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, UV

SUBJECT: TAMBAO MANGANESE PROJECT

REF: OUAGA 318 (NOTAL)

1. \$90 MILLION TAMBAO MANGANESE PROJECT MOVED ONE STEP
CLOSER TO REALIZATION WITH SIGNING OF PARTICIPATION
AGREEMENT BY MINING COMPANIES AND GOUV FEBRUARY 5.

2. SIGNATORIES WILL FORM NEW OPERATING COMPANY TO BE
KNOWN AS SOCIETE MINIERE DE TAMBAO. EQUITY PARTICIPATION
WILL BE AS FOLLOWS: VOLTAN GOVERNMENT-51 PERCENT;
JAPANESE FERRO-ALLOY ASSOCIATION (CONSISTING OF ABOUT
TWELVE FIRMS)-30 PERCENT; EXPLORATION UND BERGBAU,
REPRESENTING AUGUST THYSEN (FRG)-9 PERCENT; UNION CARBIDE-
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7 PERCENT; SOCIETE DU MANGANESE (FRENCH)-3 PERCENT.

3. COMPANIES WILL NOW HAVE BETWEEN TWO WEEKS TO ONE MONTH TO SEEK FINAL RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT BY HOME OFFICE MANAGEMENT. UNDER TERMS OF AGREEMENT, JAPANESE WILL HAVE PURCHASE RIGHTS FOR 344,000 TONS MANGANESE; GERMANS-103,000 TONS; UCC - 80,000 TONS; AND FRENCH 34,000 TONS. VOLTANS WILL HAVE REMAINDER. ABOVE SHARES ARE CALCULATED ON EXTRACTION RATE OF 625,000 MT/YEAR.

4. IN ADDITION TO COMPANIES, WORLD BANK ALSO PARTICIPATED AS OBSERVER. WITH AGREEMENT NOW SIGNED, BANK IS EXPECTED TO MAKE CONTRIBUTION FOR FINANCING CONSTRUCTION OF RAILROAD FROM OUAGA TO ORE SITE.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH UNION CARBIDE HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED TO GET LARGER SHARE, THEY SEE INDICATIONS THAT BOTH GERMANS AND FRENCH MAY BE UNABLE TO SECURE FINAL RATIFICATION FORCING THEM TO DROP OUT. IF THIS HAPPENS, UCC'S SHARE COULD BE INCREASED FROM 7 TO 14 PERCENT. MUCH CREDIT FOR OBTAINING ACCORD GOES TO TAMBAO PROJECT DIRECTOR PHILLIPE OUEDRAOGO WHO MANAGED TO RECONCILE DIVERSE VIEWS AND HAMMER OUT ACCEPTABLE TERMS OF AGREEMENT. NEXT SESSION WITH COMPANIES IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL.
GRAHAM

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